

Message Text

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63

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 DRC-01 /048 W

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R 142145Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE 3275

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS SUVA 784

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR FJ

SUBJ: CIVAR: HEADS OF PACIFIC GOVERNMENTS MEET ON REGIONAL
AIRLINE

1. HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF FIJI, WESTERN SAMOA, COOK ISLANDS,
AND TONGA MET IN TONGA AUGUST 13 TO DISCUSS ROLE OF REGIONAL
AIRLINE IN SOUTH PACIFIC. MEETING CHAIRED BY KING OF TONGA.
PURPOSE OF MEETING REPORTEDLY TO PREPARE QUOTE GUIDELINES
UNQUOTE FOR MEETING OF SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM NATION'S CIVIL
AVIATION MINISTERS THAT WILL CONVENE IN SUVA AUGUST 19.
(THIS WILL INCLUDE CIVAIR MINS OF ABOVE COUNTRIES PLUS
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND).

2. GUIDELINES FOR SUVA MEETING ARE: THAT AIR PACIFIC SHOULD
BE RECONSTRUCTED WITH PERHAPS FIJI TAKING CONTROLLING INTEREST,
THAT OTHER NATIONAL AIRLINES OF FORUM COUNTRIES (I.E. WESTERN
SAMOA AND NAURU) SHOULD MEANWHILE KEEP THEIR SEPARATE IDENTI-
TIES, THAT A CONSULTATIVE BODY SHOULD REVIEW TECHNICAL
COOPERATION BETWEEN AIRLINES, INCLUDING RATIONALIZATION
OF ROUTE AND STANDARDIZATION OF EQUIPMENT, THAT LONG-TERM
ULTIMATE AIM WAS ONE REGIONAL AIRLINE, AND THAT FINANCIAL
STAKES IN THE RECONSTRUCTED AIR PACIFIC SHOULD BE EQUAL.

3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, FIJI'S CIVAIR MINISTER (DEPUTY
PRIMINGANILAU) CONFIRMED IN RADIO INTERVIEW AUGUST 10 THAT
PANAM HAS MADE DID TO BUY INTO AIR PACIFIC CONSORTIUM.

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THIS WAS FIRST PUBLIC CONFIRMATION BY GOF THAT ACTUAL OFFER

HAD BEEN MADE, ALTHOUGH PM HAD EARLIER IN PRESS CONFERENCE
SAID GOF WOULD NOT OBJECT TO PANAM'S JOINING CONSORTIUM.
HALL

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